Uranium Mining

1085. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government due to the worsening fuel crunch badly affecting the nuclear plant operations is contemplating of opening Uranium mining to private players;

(b) if so, whether any safety and other measures are being formulated to ensure safe, reliable and responsible mining of this sensitive ore;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when the said reform process as would come into operation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No policy decision has been taken on private participation in uranium mining.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Uranium Reserves

†1086. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Uranium reserves have been explored in several States of the country;

(b) if so, the States having these reserves and the quantum of Uranium found; and

(c) the States where commercial production has been started with these reserves and the quantity of average annual production from these reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of the Department of Atomic Energy, has established 1, 16, 373 tonnes of *insitu* uranium resources as on 1.10.2008. The quantum of state-wise uranium reserves found is as follows:

State	Estimated resource (te U_3O_8)
1	2
Jharkhand	47,809

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.